#### PRICE ONE CENT

## RATE RULING KNOWN BY THE RAILROADS

Commissioner Johnson Admits Conference With Representative of Carriers Prior to Hearing.

Public Service Commissioner Emory R. Johnson, in a formal statement issued this afternoon in Harrisburg, admitted that the Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia and Reading and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Companies were informed in aubstance what the decision of the Commission would be in the passenger rate increase case on Friday night nearly 24 hours before the Commission announced

publicly its decision in the case.

Mr. Johnson also said an informal interview was granted a representative of the railroads early in December, even before the formal hearing had been held and at that time a fairly clear intimation of what the Commission would order was given to the railroads.

was given to the rallroads.

The new tariffs as they were approved by the Commission, according to Mr. Johnson, were filed by the railroads with the interstate Commerce Commission in Washington at noon on Saturday, four hours before the executive session of the

Pennsylvania Public Service Commission ended in the Bellevue-Stratford.

Mr. Johnson also said that he understood from a representative of the railroads that the full force of employes in the rate departments of the railroads were kept busy all Friday night presented. paring the tariff schedules and the tickets to conform with the guling which the commission was to formally decide upon

the next day.
In defense of the course of the Com-guission, Mr. Johnson said that had the railroads not been able to know the new rates prior to the formal decision they would have been unable to file the tariffs with the Commission in Washington, and accordingly the public might have been compelled to pay the increased fares for a limited time.

The statement from Mr. Johnson was Issued in reply to charges of the attor-neys for the commuters that the Com-mission must have advised the railroads in advance what they would rule and that in so doing they had not acted in good faith with the complainants.

#### MB. JOHNSON'S STATEMENT In part Mr. Johnson's statement fol-

"The numerous complaints received by the Public Service Commission during the latter half of November as to the proposed increase in passenger fares were classified and carefully atudied by the commission and a preliminary hearing was held the latter part of November, at which all complaints wishing to present their cases were heard. Following that hearing it was apparently evident to the carriers that concession should be made to the public, modifying the tariffs that had been filed with the Public Service Commission at Harrisburg, and with the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington to become effective December 15.

ber 15.
"An informal interview was requested by Mr. Dixon, representing the carriers, with a member of the commission. At this interview the carriers were informed ssion would probably consider the tariff that had been filed to be unreasonable in several particulars, par-ticularly in the withdrawal of the 100-trip ticket and the increase of the ten-trip ticket to a basis of more than two cents a mile, and in the provision of the monthly and school tickets which limited them to periods of the calendar month. Fol-lowing this informal interview the carriers took up the same question with the Interstate Commerce Commission, which gave the carriers permission to withdraw the tariffs that had been filed and to substitute new tariffs providing the new tariffs should make the changes which

Concluded on Page Two

### THE WEATHER



Br-r-r-r! This is real winter; isn't 14? plete the sentence.

Murphy feigned insanity when his case first was called for trial a month ago and proceedings were held up until physicians had time to examine him. All cortified that he was not insane. Another outbreak was expected today. The man refused to dress this morning when the time came for him to go to the court house, and policy forced the clothing on him. Frank Cole, Harry Frank. Anna Enskat and Henrietta Enskat, all living in the vicinity of the murder, gave testi-And it's here to stay, too, for a while, for the weatherman amouness that it will be just as frigid tonight. At any rate it ts clear and will stay so for a time as a welcome relief. So whether you plan tonight to listen to "Celeste Aida" at Bread and Poplar or just hop around the corner to the movies, wrap up warm. An ounce of prevention, you know.

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity-Fair and continued cold today and to-

For details, see page 2.

Cossivations at Philadelphia
B.A.M.
Baronciss  Testimenature  Wind  Went 16 miles  Exp  Precipitation last 26 hours  Strain- Strain- Strain- Manual Semparature  Maximum Se
Almanac of the Day
Sug rises tomorries

The official press bureau today gave out the following:

"The Turkish cruiser Midirit (formerly the Breslau) has bombarded Sebasiopol.

"The Turkish official bullatin says the large cruiser Sultan Selbn (the Goeben) bombarded Batum, December 10, setting lits to the city. The Bussian land batteries returned the fire without success.

"Constantinople learns authoritatively that a Mohammedan uprising has securized in the Caussias, and that 50,006 armest Russian Moslams went ever to fight against the Bussians." 

The Tides PORT BICKMOND. DESERVACE SPREET WHARP

HEREDY BELLEVI Sabatopel is on the lathnus of Crimes in the Black Sas, and is the principal fination nevel base in those waters. The day after Turkey began lostlittles against 1970 a.m. Turkey memorines have trief in sufer the larger, and consequently in suffer the larger, and consequently in suffer the larger.

Lamps to By Lighted

STABBED IN A QUARREL

sailant Arrested,

JUDGE SULZBERGER CALLS

Reply to Criticism of Court.

the one commonly indulged in of calling a man a politician by way of saying he is unfit. I always distrust such a critic.

You know my opinion of Director Porter. If he complains that women prisoners have been discharged in court I can only

say that they have been discharged for say that they have been discharged to good and valid reasons."

Director Porter refused to comment to-day on Judge Sulzberger's remarks. He said he would have a statement tomorrow.

WOMAN CRUSHED ON CAR

TRACKS; FOUL PLAY THEORY

Police Conducting Investigation Into

Early Morning Tragedy.

Mrs. Virginia Oberdorfer, 67 years old,

2051 North 8th street, was found dead on

the trolley tracks at 8th and Clearfield

streets this morning. The circumstances are such that the possibility of foul play is being entertained by the police.

The woman's body was lying across the

been struck by a car while crossing the tracks, the police examined all cars on the 7th and 8th streets division that

passed Clearfield street during the night.

COLLAPSES IN COURT WHILE

Murder Trial Halted Until Witness

Recovers Composure.

The father of Herman Fisher, the boy

murdered at Taylor Lane, Mount Holly,

July II, whose alleged slayer is on trial at

that town today, collapsed while testifying how he found the body of his son, and proceedings were halted for nearly haif an hour until he recovered.

The father is Charles Fisher. Augustus

The father is Charles Fisher. Augustus Fisher, a brother of the murdered lad, also was called to the stand to testify, and while he was describing how the body was found Edgard C. Murphy, the accused murderer, jumped to his feet and shouted, "You mentioned some things there—" He was not allowed to complete the sentence."

in the vicinity of the murder, gave testi-mony. Florence Wilhelm said that after shots that killed Herman Fisher had been

fired she heard some one cry out: "Oh Lord, help me." Later on she learned that Herman had done the calling. Anna Wilhelm heard the appeals after the

TURKISH CRUISER BRESLAU

Goeban Also Reported in Raid on

Batum Port.

The official press bureau today gave

BOMBARDS SEBASTOPOL

plete the sentence

TELLING OF SON'S DEATH

PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1914.



White-wing street cleaners and other public servants whose work kept them out in the open found it hard to keep warm today, with the thermometer ranging between 13 and 26 degrees. The weather man held out no hope of more pleasing temperatures before Thursday. The city, however, was more fortunate than some of the suburbs, where the mercury fell to zero.

## **COLD WAVE BRINGS DEATH AND INTENSE** SUFFERING TO POOR

Mercury Falls to 13 Degrees on Coldest December 15 in Ten Years and Second Coldest on Record.

trucks The shall was lying across the	
tracks. The skull was crushed and the limbs mutilated. A handbag, containing four smaller bags, bolding in all \$165, was intact. About four feet from the body were the woman's shoes, which were of the elastic side type. Further along the tracks was a dented ash barrel, its contents strewn along the road. The body was found by Challes Coltrie, 2029 North Leithgow street, and Albert Steele. 2542 North Front street, milk-	TODAY'S HOURLY  TEMPERATURE RECORD  The figures indicate temperatures on the street at Broad and Chestnut streets, as reported by Ledger Central:
men, who were serving their route. On the theory that Mrs. Oberdorfer had	5 n m 19 11 n m 99

1	Midnight 15	9 a. m.,,,,,,, 14
ı	1 a. m 18	10 a. m 14
ı	5 n. m 18	11 a. m 21
ł	3 a. m 17	12 noon
ı	4 a. m 16	
1	5 a. m 15	2 p. m 36
ı	# a. m 14	3 p. m 28
I	7 a. m., 13	4 p.m 36
I	\$ a. m 13	
1		

The coldest December 15 in ten years and the second coldest on record brought death to two men, injuries to several, and intense suffering to the poor of the

The mercury between 7 and 8 o'clock this morning registered 13 degrees above zero, 5 degrees lower than the mark pre-dicted by the official weather forecaster. One of the dead men is unidentified as been Edward McGovern, of 2025 Winter street. He was found dying at Alie-sheny avenue and Witte street, and taken to the home of Benjamin Herbert, 3198 Welkie street, where he died before a physician could arrive from the North-eastern Hoanits

eastern Hospital. The other man was found beneath a Philadelphia and Reading Rallway phia and Reading Rallway platform in American street, above Berks, where he had crawled to es-cape the biting wind, and died. He was about 45 years old and was five feet nine nches tall and dressed in dark cloth-His hair was dark and streaked

Local Forecaster Bliss predicts that the

Local Forecaster Bliss predicts that the cold weather will continue throughout the day and fonight. The same prediction is made at Washington, but slightly warmer weather for Thursday is promised. John Wents, of 157 Carlton street, a window cleaner, fell from the third floor of the Scott Paper Company flaint, at 7th street and Glenwood avenue, this morning, when the cold numbed his hands. He was taken to Samaritan Hospital.

Thomas Sullivan, 1933 South 19th street, sustained a fracture of the skull when he alipped on an loy aldewalk in 19th afreet. He is at St. Agnes' Hospital. In many points in the suburbs thermometers registers much lower than in this city, the low mark being ast at Hat-boro, where the mercury dropped to an

SUFFERING AMONG POOR. The cold was especially severe on the The cold was especially severa on the poor. This was evidenced by the fixed of requests for aid received by virtually overy charitable organization in the city. Coal dealers found the weather to their liking because of hurry-up orders for coal, and today their teams are working at lop speed trying to catch by with orders.

Flumbers also came into their harvest time as the result of frozen pipes, especially in the outlying sections. Thurmonisters at many suburban points registered for below the official figure of

packany in the outlying actions. Thermoneters at manny suburban points registared for below the official figure of 21 degrees at midnight.

The small boy took the first opportunity to dark the keen wind this institute and test the less forming on points and puddies. Should the weather continue at the present temperature it will mean proval was granted to place of shating.

Philadelphia and Pennsylvania got of sastly primared to other points. The moreousy want down is degrees to it house the Lake Shore atoos.

#### N. Y. EXCHANGE DISCHARGES COMMITTEE OF FIVE

Governors Took Action at Meeting This Afternoon.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.-Declaring that the crisis which existed July 31-when it was created-has passed, the committee of five that has governed the Stock Exchange since that time today asked to be discharged. The board of governors granted the request, placing the exchange back on the footing that existed prior to

The board of governors also announced that all contracts that were suspended July 31 are now enforcible, subject to minimum price restrictions, as were recently established.

#### HOUSE WRECKED BY 2-TON ROCK HURLED BY DYNAMITE

Three Persons Had Narrow Escapes in Explosion-Contractor Arrested.

A shower of rocks hurled through the the dying man, collapsed twice at the air for nearly a hundred feet by a heavy hospital. He arrived there a few minnarrow escapes from serious injury.
Samuel Farke, 137 Jamestown street,
Manayunk, the contractor who is alleged
to have been responsible for the blasting. was arrested and arranged before Mag-

istrate Grelia in the Manayunk police sta-tion and held under \$500 ball for a further hearing Saturday on the charge of violat-ing a city ordinance.

wall into the parlor, smashing furniture and knocking pictures from the walls. At the same time a piece of rock weighing 250 pounds tore its way through the side wall of the house and dropped in the kitchen. It was driven into the kitchen with such force it pushed a heavy refrigerator into the middle of the kitchen and upset a table which held the break-fast dishes.

Anna Maxwell, 15 years old, who was working about the kitchen, both jumped out of the way to prevent being hurt. Bezala Maxwell, another daughter, 12 years old, was in bed at the time of the explosion, and a piece of stone passed within a few juchea of her head and lunded on a chair at the girl's bedalde and smaahed it.

#### FIRE HOSE TEST FAVORED

Director Porter and Mayor Will Sanction Investigation.

Orders for an immediate test of the hose used by the Pire Department will be based by Director Porter. The Director and Mayer Blankenburg today agreed to permit the test following the request of L. M. Howland, engineer of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Hoard of Fire Underwriters.

In demanding the test, Mr. Howland declared he was of the opinion that at least 20 per cent of the high precaure hose in the by the department was laulty. Many of the engines also were faulty and a great number of them were faulty and a great number of them were of authousted type he contended. of antiquated type, he contended. A plan will be evolved by Director Poster for a complete investigation and examination of the city's are againing apparatus

#### R. R. MERGER APPROVED

New York Commission Sanctions \$20,000,000 Sale of Stock. ALHANY, N. Y. Dec. 15 - Pinal approval was granted today by the Upblate Public Service Commission for the

purchase by the New York Central of Constants on Case Day | William of stock (grained to DV.

## READING TERMINAL CAFE MAN ENDS LIFE IN BROAD ST. STATION

E. R. Knoblauch Shoots Himself - Deranged by Father's Death-Brother Collapses in Hospital.

Eugene R. Knoblauch, one of the proprietors of the restaurant on the train floor of the Reading Terminal, shot himself through the right temple at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon, in a retiring room of Broad Street Station. He died later at the Hahnemann Hospital. Gustave Knoblauch, Jr., a brother of

charge of dynamite wrecked the home utes after Eugene Knoblauch had beer of Patrick Maxwell, 167 Roxborough taken there. He also is under the care street. Manayunk, this morning and of physicians, who say that his condition slightly injured one of the occupants of is serious. Until physicians took him in the house, while two other persons had charge he was packed as and down the charge he was pacing up and down the corridors, wildly wringing his hands, died in Atlantic City August 2, and it is believed this preyed on the mind of Eugene. Gustave Knoblauch said after he had been treated at the hospital that he could give no motive for his brother's ing a city ordinance.

When the charge of dynamite was get off, the sound of the explosion could be heard for miles, and huge pieces of rock were hurled high into the air.

A rock, estimated by the police of the Manayunk station to have weighed two tons, crashed against the front wall of the house and sent a part of the B-inch wall into the parlor, smaking furniture. he may have been temporarily deranged when he fired the shot.

After Mr. Knoblauch was sent to the ospital a search of his pockets was made Railroad, and Special Policeman Tomlison, of the lath and Vina streets station. On a deposit slip of the Girard Trust Company were written the following words:

"Overcoat in closet of father's room. Large doll, in parlor."

to Sedgewick, N. J., which was purchased yesterday, and a round trip ticket to Atlantic City. There was an empty envelope addressed to Mrs. Eugene Knoblauch, il South Jackson avenue. Atlantic

A dirard Trust Company book showed that Khoblauch had on deposit \$11,222 at On the floor of the wash room was a box of shotgun shells and \$2 calibre revolver cartridges.

Hroad Street Station was crowded with

walting passengers at the time of the shooting. Knoblauch fired only one shot. Crowds of men rushed into the room and attendants found it impossible to keep

#### OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

The pursuit of the Russians in West The pursuit of the Russians in West-Galleis continues. As a result of en-counters of a more or less serious nature we have won ground in a northern direction. Dusia in Galleia) is again in our possession. Our col-ums, advancing through the Car-pathians, espured on Saturday 9000 prisoners and 10 machine guns.

Our offensive movement directed in a southeasterly direction from the River Drina encountered, southeast of Vallevo, a greatly superior force of the enemy.

the enemy.

Our advance has not merely been stopped, but we are compelled also to make more extended ratirements of our troops, which for many weeks have fought obstinately and brilliantly, but with many losses.

SERVIAN,
The battle south of Belgrade, in which three Austrian army corps were engaged, ended in a complete victory for the Servians.

The enemy fled in great disorder across the Danube and Save, evacuat-

ing Belgrade. Ing Belgrade.

All Servian territory now freed of the enemy with the exception of Shabatz and Loznitza, in the extreme northwestern corner of the country, the deliverance of which is imminent. The triumphal entry of the Servian troops into Belgrade was marked with scenes of enthusiasm.

RUSSIAN.

There has been no engagements of importance on any of the fronts. In the region of Mlawa we continue to force back the German troops, who are in retreat.

In the region of Mount Buckla, Austrian columns are coming down the northern slope of the Carpathians.

TURKISH. Skirmlahes with the Russians on the border of Van Kuer continue in our favor. Russian cavalry attacked our cavalry on the Persian frontier. Our counter attacks were successful, and the Russians were repulsed and dis-FRENCH.

Between the sea and the Lys the English have captured a small forest to the west of Wytschaete. The ground gained yesterday by our troops along the Yser Canal and to the west of Hollebeke has been held

despite a vigorous counter attack by the enemy.

From the Belgian frontier to the Somme there is nothing to report.

From the Somme to the Argonne there have been intermittent cannon-ades, not very violent execut in the ades, not very violent except in the region of Crouy. In the Argonne we have made some

progress and maintained our advance

of preceding days.

In Alsace the enemy's artillery is showing great activity except at Steinbach, where an attack by Ger-min infantry, starting from Uffholtz, was able to gain a foothold. We have maintained everywhere our

BRITISH.

Fighting has recommenced in north-ern France. A combined attack by the Allies was made yesterday on the Hollebeke-Wytschaete line. Several German trenches and a number of prisoners were captured. Substantial progress has been made. GERMAN.

The French yesterday made fruit The French yesterday made fruit-less attacks at various points. Their attack on our position southeast of Ypres failed, and the enemy suffered heavy losses. Two hostils attacks northeast of Sulppes were also re-pulsed by us. Another attack north-east of Omes and one northeast of Verdon likewise were repulsed, the enemy's lesses being heavy. Three stracks were attempted by the French in the neighborhood of Viele.

Southeast of St. Mihiel the French tried to take our positions by storm, but their attack failed. They have renewed their attack from the direction of Fliery, north of Toul, with-out securing advantage.

## MORE U.S. TROOPS **GOVERNMENT REPLY** TO GEN. CARRANZA

Defiant Note Brings Order for Infantry and Artillery to Reinforce Bliss.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.-Three regineats of United States infantry and three batteries of artiflery were ordered to by Detective Acorn, of the Pennsylvania | Naco, Arizona, late today by Secretary of War Garrison to reinforce General Bliss. The orders were issued after the Secretary had discussed in the Cabinet meeting the altuation existing in the frontier town.

The movement is accepted as an answer to the defiant declaration of Gen-There were also a commutation ticket eral Carranta to the State Department that any action taken by the United States to prevent the firing of Mexican bullets across the international line would be regarded by the Carranzistas "as an act of heatility."

Secretary Garrison declined to discuss the orders other than to say that the troops were belug sent as "a precautionary measure." The urgency of the orders, however, gave rise to a report that the Administration's "watchful waiting" was

has of thoda about to ead.

There are now stationed on the bander in or near Naco IS trueps of cavalry.

These recently were reinforced by three

attendants found it impossible to keep them back.

A squad of politic was sent from the lith and Vine streets station and Knoblaich was rushed to the hospital. So far as the police could learn no one has him put the revolver to his head.

Engene Knoblauch's home formesty was at 2H Manheim street. Germantown. He moved a few days ago to a home he had just built at Cynwyd. Ps.

Mr. Knoblauch's with was not told of the suicide. She is convalencing at their Cynwyd home after an operation, performed several days ago, and it is feared that if she were told at this time the results would be serious. She has two thisdren.

M. P. Bliss attorney for the Knoblauch brothers and this afterneon that is bis opinion. Sugame's minut wis unhalanced as the result of librers and weery over the double of lib father. Augustus Knoblauch. The cider Knoblauch left in contract of the brothers, and in his will provided that the latter continue the Teams of the sulgiblest doubt that may be a state valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minut valued at 1500 we equalty divided as two minutes and the resulting the transmittal faths at the substance which have hilled at the substance which have killed at the substance which have been first but the process under the minute faths which have killed at the substance of the beliefs which have killed at the wall of the broken under the minute faths at the continue of the beliefs which have killed at the wall of the broken under the process and the substance of the beliefs which have have head from the process and the substance was confidented to the process and the process and the p

## CZAR RENDS **GERMANS IN**

# NORTH; LOSES AT CRACOW

Wrests Ground Gained in Upper Poland From Teutons and Puts Foe to Precipitate Flight Across East Prussian Frontier, Relieving Warsaw From Threatened Drive on North.

Serbs Dash to Belgrade and Thrust Austrian Garrison From Capital-Austrians, However, Score Victory in Galicia, Driving Czar's Column Fifty Miles From Cracow.

In the East victory attends the Al-lies' campaigns. The Serbs have swept victoriously forward to Belgrade, which they have taken from the Austrians, whose forces have been put to flight across the Drina and Save Rivers. The Russians, too, have expelled the invader from their soil, the northern drive on Warsaw under General Francois having been effectually frustrated and Upper Poland cleared of the foe.

Austrian reverses in Servia, which are for the first time frankly admitted by Vienna, are compensated by successful continuation of the drive against the Russians in western Galicia. The Caur's forces southeast of Cracow have been driven back 50 niles to the Plain of Allenthal.

The downward stroke on Warsaw from East Prussia has failed completely, according to Petrograil reports, and the threatening German advance north of the Vistula has been effectually disposed of. This leaves Grand Duke Nicholas free to devote attention to the main German movement on Warsaw from the west. The campaign there seems to be at a standstill on a stationary line from Lodz to Lowicz.

The German position in Poland is favorable, Berlin states, and the Russians have been obliged to assume the defensive between the Warthe and Vistula Rivers.

The fiercest fighting on the Franco-Belgian front now centres in the region south of Ypres, where both the British and French have made udvances that seriously threaten the German lines. The British have succeeded in driving the Kaiser's artillery from a forest west of Wytachaete (five miles south of Ypres), while the French have manitained the ground they won yesterday at Hol-Concluded on Page Four

#### TURKEY WILL APOLOGIZE. **ENVOY ASSURES ITALY**

Porte, However, Delays Amends for Consul's Selaure.

ROME, Dec. 12. The Turkish charge d'affaires ansures the Italian Foreign Office today that his Government would make a satisfactory explanation of the recent attack on the Italian Consulate at Hodeida. Calling at the Foreign Office for the second time in 14 hours, he said that he expected the Porte's reply to Italy's representations within a short time.

Despite the delay of Turker's reprehe belief is atrong here that the marias will be smoothed over without war. It is known that Germany has exerted its industrie in Constantinople to prevent the Ottoman Government from giving italy an affront that will lead to had Militans.

#### LOST AND POUND